

JACKSON COUNTY SENTINEL

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H. J. Lynch, Prohibition Agent, Meets Tragic Death.

HENRY YOUNG, MOONSHINER, FIRES FATAL SHOT FROM SECOND STORY WINDOW OF RESIDENCE.

SAM H. WHITAKER, POSSE-MAN, HAS NARROW ESCAPE FROM BEING KILLED.

ENTIRE COUNTRY SHOCKED OVER HORRIBLE TRAGEDY.

A week has passed since the murder of H. J. Lynch, federal prohibition agent, by Henry Young, wildcat, while performing his duties as an officer of the United States government.

The great shock, and high tension of excitement caused by the most horrible tragedy ever enacted in the history of Jackson County, has somewhat subsided, leaving a deep feeling of sorry and intense regret in the heart of every law abiding citizen, that time can not erase. All that is asked, is that the full punishment of the law be meted out to the guilty.

The Sentinel publishes the following account of the tragedy, and the facts surrounding it, as near as authentic as can be learned.

On the day of the tragedy Mr. Lynch accompanied by Sam H. Whitaker, special revenue agent, and his youngest son Baugh, as driver, left Gainesboro shortly before noon in a car for the section of the first district, commonly spoken of as "No Man's Land," five miles southeast of Gainesboro, for the purpose of making a raid. They proceeded to a point 1½ miles on the road leading from the Dillard West store Morrison's Creek, where Mr. Lynch and Whitaker left the car.

Baugh, who was left in charge of the car, was instructed by his father, to return near John Haile store, where he was to get some peaches and wait their return. On passing the Young residence, which was about ½ mile from where Mr. Lynch and Whitaker left the car, Baugh was stopped by Henry Young, who wanted to know, whom he taken up the road. Baugh refused to tell him, and Young then asked, if it wasn't the "Wild Man," a term used by wildcaters, when speaking of the revenue men. Baugh refused to answer this question, and drove on.

After leaving the car Mr. Lynch and Whitaker made a close search on a section of the Young farm, finally locating the still site in a hollow several hundred yards from the residence. The still had been removed, but from all evidence whiskey had been made a short time before. A search for the still pot was made, Whitaker finding it hidden in a tree top not far from the still site. From here they proceeded toward the road, Whitaker carrying the still pot. The route taken to the road lead them pass the Young residence. On near-

ing the barn they separated. Whitaker going to the left of the barn and Mr. Lynch to the right, for the purpose of searching for whiskey. Mr. Lynch continued towards the house, and had reached the corner of the fence near the house, when a gun shot rang out from the direction of the house. The full load took effect in Mr. Lynch's left breast, causing instant death. Mr. Whitaker was a short distance behind Mr. Lynch, and in plain view of him when shot. Seeing Mr. Lynch fall, Whitaker started to him, but had only gone a short distance, when he saw Henry Young come out of the front door of the house with a shot gun in his hand. Whitaker opened fire on Young, but on account of a fence being between them, and Young's crouching position, his shots went wild. Young returned the fire, but missed his mark. After firing out, Whitaker retreated, with Young in pursuit. Whitaker had only retreated a short distance, when Young fired again, and his quick action in falling to the ground saved him, the load of shot passing over him. Whitaker then plunged through a briar patch and down a hill, taking refuge behind a tree. From there he could see Young, but not having any ammunition, had to remain in seclusion.

As soon as possible Whitaker made his way to the Gainesboro road, and was picked up by a passing car and brought to town, arriving here more than two hours after the tragedy. It was first thought from reports received that Whitaker had been mortally wounded, and his appearance in town unharmed was quite a relief.

Young after chasing Whitaker, returned to the house, taking his car and shot gun started to Gainesboro. In passing Dillard West's store he informed some men there that he had shot "Bud" Lynch and another man. Coming on to town he stopped at the residence of Dr. Reeves, stating something about there being an awful sick man at his house. Leaving his car there Young walked to the courthouse. Entering the court room, while the trial of Beechboard for killing Cooper, was in progress, he informed sheriff Spurlock that he had shot Bud Lynch. The sheriff then informed Judge Gardenhire of the fact, and was given instruction to arrest Young and lock him up. This was done, and the sheriff shortly left for the scene of the tragedy. Young appeared very excited and had but little to say.

The news of the tragedy soon spread over town, and excitement ran high. Business was suspended. Judge Gardenhire adjourned court and everybody waited in breathless expection to learn further details.

At this time Baugh Lynch arrived in town, and in broken sentences told that his father was dead. He had learned from the men at West's store what Young had said about shooting



LATE PHOTO OF HOWELL J. LYNCH, Revenue Agent, First Martyr of The Prohibition Cause in Tennessee

his father. Rushing to the scene he found his father dead, and then came to town for assistance.

Quick preparations were made by a number of citizens to go to scene. A cot was loaded into a Ford truck rushed with all speed after the body.

Those going to the scene of the tragedy found the body of Mr. Lynch lying in the corner of the fence, where he had fallen. His two revolvers were on him, one in the scabbard and one in his pocket, fully loaded, showing they had not been touched. The body was brought to Gainesboro and taken to the home of Ree Roberts and dressed. A close examination of the wound showed the shot had entered the breast at an angle of 45 degrees, ranging down. A mass of shot entered the lung between the second and third rib, making a ½ inch hole. A few shot broke the skin on the neck, just below the ear, and one lodged in the shoulder.

Hundreds of men and women called at the home of Mr. Roberts Thursday evening and Friday morning to view the remains, and offer help and condolence to the stricken family.

J. C. Tyler, federal agent, of Cookeville, arrived in Gainesboro during the afternoon, having been called by Mr. Lynch early that morning to meet him here that night. Tyler had a warrant sworn out for Young, and he was carried to Cookeville Thursday night for fear mob violence.

Col. W. H. Tyler of Nashville, Chief of field force, arrived in Gainesboro at an early hour Friday morning, accompanied by a number of his force. They visited the scene of the tragedy, making a close examination of the place. Much important data bearing on the case was gathered.

The strong arm of the government is back of the prosecution, and the public is assured that every resource of the government will be used to bring the guilty to justice.

After summing up all of the facts surrounding the tragedy, the nature of the wound, the conclusion is reached, that Young fired the fatal shot from a window in the second story of his home.

The report Mr. Lynch saw Young and had some words with him at the time of the

murder is untrue and unfounded

FUNERAL

Impressive funeral service was held Friday afternoon in the grove at the rear of the Christian church, conducted by Rev. K. A. Early, pastor of the M. E. Church here, who paid a beautiful tribute to the life of the deceased since his coming into the church in May, 1921, and the untold good he had accomplished since he became a revenue official. One of the largest crowds that ever attended a funeral in this section, was present.

At the request of the pastor, Judge J. M. Gardenhire concluded the service with words of praise to the life of Mr. Lynch, and the great cause for which he died, stating, that while Mr. Lynch had his faults, his good traits by far outweighed them.

The active pall-bearers were J. C. Sadler, Garrett Johnson, J. M. Draper, H. M. Haile, J. L. McCawley and Frank Gailbreath.

The honorary pall-bearers included twelve members of the revenue force as follows: Col. W. H. Tyler, Chief of Field Force, Nashville; J. C. Tyler, Cookeville; W. B. Shopner, Bedford County; J. H. Briles, W. C. Taylor, Davidson County; W. B. Stone, Carthage; J. L. Malloy, Warren County; A. L. Binkly, Cheatham County; D. E. Jenkins, Macon County; W. T. Lee, Overton County; Sam Whitaker, Posseman, this County.

The casket was covered with a beautiful design of flowers which were contributed by the revenue officials in token of their love and esteem for the deceased and his bereaved family.

The deceased was 43 years old and was reared at the forks of Flynn's Creek, in the 11th civil district of this county, and was the oldest son of the late Geo. W. Lynch. He was a Jeffersonian democrat and took an active part in politics. He served two terms as sheriff, and two as Trustee of this county. He was appointed Federal Prohibition Agent last September, and during the short time he served, he made a record that will long linger in the minds of the law-abiding people of Jackson County, which will forever stand out as a great monument to his life and the worthy cause for he died

In his death the people of this

W. A. SMITH, STATE PROHIBITION DIRECTOR, PAYS HIGH TRIBUTE TO FALLEN HERO.

PASTOR EARLY WRITES OF MR. LYNCH AS HE KNEW HIM—WAS TRUE TO GOD.

"I take pleasure in saying to the friends and relatives of late Mr. Howell J. (Bud) Lynch, that there was not in Tennessee, or perhaps in the United States, a more efficient, effective, trustworthy and dependable officer than was Mr. Lynch. His untiring energy, his undaunted bravery, his practical common sense enabled him to deal satisfactorily with some of the most dangerous and perilous situations arising in the enforcement of the National Prohibition Act in the State of Tennessee.

"The performance of his official duties since he has been in the Government service has thrown him in co-operation with many other Federal Agents of the state as well as many other civil officers, including chosen members of the Police Force, both in the city of Nashville and Memphis. Each and all these officers have been unstinted in their praise of Mr. Lynch, and they were always pleased when he was assigned to duties with them.

"In my opinion, he has done more in the last few months, for the business and moral uplift of his County than any other man; surely he has done more for the enforcement of the law and suppression of crime, than has ever before been done in Jackson County. Slain, as he was, while in the performance of his official duty, he becomes the greatest fallen hero in the history of Jackson County, and the first martyr to law enforcement and sobriety in the state of Tennessee, since the new organization of the prohibition forces.

"Sincerely,
"W. A. Smith,
Prohibition Director."

It is not my purpose to review the tragedy that ended his life on July 6th, nor to review the past 43 years of his life. His statesmanship as a politician needs no mention to Jackson Countians.

I came to know Mr. Lynch very intimately during May, 1921, at which time he was converted and I received him as a member into the M. E. church, South, at Gainesboro. This was a glad surprise to all who knew him. Many remarked, that if he remained true to God, and used his natural gifts for His kingdom, that he would be a power for righteousness. His friends looked forward with much anxiety to know the course he would pursue. Some prophesied the ministry. He expressed himself oftentimes to me and others, that he would like to be a minister and might enter the

and adjoining counties, keenly feel their great loss, and their hearts go out in deep sympathy to his grief-stricken family and relatives.

Besides his devoted wife, Mrs. Lou Lynch, the deceased is survived by the following children: George Henry, of Murfreesboro; Carsey, of California; Garry, Baugh and Rosamond, at home. Also, one brother, L. W. Lynch, of near Gainesboro.

ministry later. But, as God has many other worthy fields of service for his servants He thrust Mr. Lynch into the front line trenches of the government against the moonshine stills. He became a terror to the distillers from the time of his appointment, as a prohibition agent last November. I haven't his complete record at hand, but feel safe in saying that he made a record during his 8 months service in this field, seconded to none in the state. His comrade, Mr. D. E. Jenkins, and Mr. Tyler and all the other men with whom he worked, testify his bravery, uniqueness as a detective and high religious ideals.

After his conversion he was always on the right—the God side of all moral questions as he saw them. He was a positive moral and religious force in his home, church and community. He chose rather to be right than popular. He will ever live among us as a hero in the cause of prohibition. May God bless his good wife and the children he leaves behind, and may all of us strive to follow him as he followed Christ, and when life's labors are ended meet him in the land of "unclouded day," where we shall enjoy perpetual springtime and immortal youth.

His devoted friend and pastor,
K. A. Early.

CARD OF THANKS.

To all the friends whose sympathy and services were so kindly tendered in our time of bereavement, we desire to extend our sincere thanks and appreciation. May the Lord bless you all and spare you such sorrow, is our sincere wish.

We also desire to extend our sincere thanks to the Federal Agents for their condolence and the beautiful flowers. We shall never forget them. We can only add, God bless these noble, big-hearted men, and guide them in the great work they are doing.

Mrs. Lou Lynch and family,
Mr. and Mrs. Ree Roberts and family.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

Noah W. Cooper, candidate for United States Senator, will speak at the courthouse in Gainesboro, TUESDAY, July 18, at 8 o'clock P. M., on "God's Gourd of Righteousness; and Beishazzar's Wicked Cups." The ladies are especially invited.

W. F. Sadler, G. B. Settle and Chas. Brown, were in Cookeville, Tuesday.

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Carter of Hendersonville, visited in Gainesboro, Wednesday. They will visit relatives in Granville and other sections of the county several days. Mr. Carter formerly lived in Granville, and held the office of sheriff of this county two terms. He has many close friends here.

Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Baugh, have returned from a brief stay in Nashville.